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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
ATTY.'S DOCKET: HIRAHARA=1

In re Application of: ) Art Unit: 3623  
Makoto HIRAHARA et al )  
Appln. No.: 09/668,296 ) Examiner: Eric Shaffer  
Date Filed: September 25, 2000 ) Washington, D.C.  
For: VISITING PLAN GENERATION ) Confirmation No. 1273  
METHOD... ) February 9, 2004  
                                ) Monday

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT [IDS]**

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
2011 South Clark Place  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, Virginia 22202

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FEB 13 2004  
**GROUP 3600**

Sir :

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, as it is filed:

[ ] A. within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of

the entry into the national stage of the above-identified international application.

[ ] B. before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits.

[x] C. after (A) and (B) above, but before final rejection or allowance, and Applicants have made the necessary certification (box "i" below) or paid the necessary fee (box "ii" below).

[x] i. Counsel certifies that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was either

[X] (a) first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

2. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., Form PTO/SB/08A) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached.

3. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 and 68 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).

4. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

***International Search Report, dated December 1, 2003***

5. In accordance with 37 CFR §§1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant(s) reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Respectfully submitted,

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